

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

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Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26 and extending to page 3, line 12, with the following new paragraph:

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--According to another aspect of the present invention, a priority control method prioritizes packets in a queue that has a single output connected to plural output paths, where the packets are each addressed to a respective one of plural receiving units on the plural output paths. The priority control method includes the steps of receiving a convergence notice signal indicating that packets addressed to one of the receiving units are to be released from the queue with a lower priority than packets not addressed to the one receiving unit, and, for only a predetermined plurality of packets at a beginning of the queue, reversing an order of two consecutive packets in the queue when a first of the two consecutive packets is addressed to the one receiving unit and a second of the two consecutive packets is not addressed to the one receiving unit, and repeating these two steps after each release of a lead packet from the queue, until the packets addressed to the one receiving unit are no longer to be released with a lower priority.--